

To: Members of the Public Health Committee

March 17, 2014

Please enter this as testimony at your public hearing today in support of HB 5326

I want to let you know how proud and excited I am to have this bill on compassionate aid in dying being proposed in the State of Connecticut. My belief in my right to make end-of-life choices is a long-standing conviction, not the result of out-of-State influence to whip up support for Aid-in-Dying. Thank you Rep. Miller and others for introducing and promoting this bill.

I believe in the great importance of finding a way to legalize a person's own right to make and carry out end of life decisions in consultation with their doctor. Those who love and want to help them should not fear punishment for their compassion. Our medical system extends life automatically—we can't rely on "God" or nature to bring an end to suffering. In fact, I would be highly resentful if I were not permitted this adult decision on the basis of someone else's religious belief that this is in God's hands.

Speaking personally, as I approach my 70s, it would be a great relief to know that if I or my loved ones are ever terminally ill and in pain we can decide whether the suffering is bearable or unbearable. We do our best to figure this out for the animals we love—though it is hard, when the time comes, we know it is the right thing to do. Surely we should be able to do it for ourselves as well. Please allow this beneficent mercy for the citizens of Connecticut.

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